

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, and 18-26 are pending and are directed to a flexible metal-clad laminate (claims 1-5, 7, and 19-25) and a flexible printed wiring board comprising the flexible metal-clad laminate (claims 18 and 26).

The Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to recite that the flexible metal-clad laminate is produced by applying a solution containing an organic solvent and a condensation polymer to the metal foil and drying the laminate. The amendments to claims 1 and 19 are supported by the specification at, for example, page 31, line 24, through page 32, line 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Summary of Advisory Action

The Office has maintained the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the combination of Ohmura et al. (U.S. Patent 4,377,652) and Akahoshi (U.S. Patent 4,970,107). Additionally, the Office has maintained the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent 3,936,575) in view of Frost (U.S. Patent 3,984,375) and Akahoshi. Reconsideration of these rejections is hereby requested.

Discussion of the Rejections

The Office has rejected the pending claims as allegedly obvious in view of several references. The claims, as amended, recite that the flexible metal-clad laminate is produced by applying a solution containing an organic solvent and a condensation polymer to the metal foil and drying the laminate. A flexible metal-clad laminate produced by such a method results in superior characteristics such as high heat resistance, dimensional stability, chemical resistance, adhesion, and high alkali resistance (see, e.g., page 5, lines 8-12, of the specification). Additionally, the metal-clad laminate produced by such a method does not curl (see, e.g., page 5, lines 13-22, of the specification). The cited references only disclose a rigid-type laminate or wire enamel and do not teach or suggest a flexible metal-clad laminate produced by directly applying a solution containing an organic solvent and a condensation polymer to the a metal foil and drying the laminate as required by the pending claims. Accordingly, the cited references, or combinations thereof, cannot be considered to render


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obvious the flexible metal-clad laminate of the pending claims, and the rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 7/29/03)